

Message Text

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ACTION EB-08

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 IO-13 ISO-00 L-03 FRB-03 OMB-01
ITC-01 SP-02 AGRE-00 AID-05 CIAE-00 COME-00
INR-10 LAB-04 NSAE-00 OIC-02 SIL-01 STR-07
TRSE-00 CEA-01 SS-15 ICAE-00 INRE-00 SSO-00 INT-05
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FM AMEMBASSY LIMA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 972

INFO USMISSION GENEVA IMMEDIATE

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: UNCTAD, ETRD, PE

SUBJECT: PERU AND THE UNCTAD WORKING GROUP ON COPPER

REF: STATE 176147

1. THE DCM AND ACTING CHIEF OF ECONOMIC SECTION MET JULY 14 WITH UNDERSECRETARY FOR ECONOMIC AFFAIRS OF FOREIGN MINISTRY, JUAN DE LA PIEDRA, TO DISCUSS PERUVIAN POSITION AT UPCOMING PREPARATORY MEETING. ALSO ATTENDING WERE MINISTRY OFFICIALS GUILLERMO FERNANDEZ CORNEJO, DIRECTOR OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS, AND OSCAR MAURTUA, CHIEF, ECONOMIC POLICY OFFICE.

2. THE DCM PRESENTED U.S. POSITION ALONG LINES PROVIDED REFTTEL, AND EXPRESSED CONCERN OVER WHAT APPEARS TO BE OBSTRUCTIONIST ROLE OF PERU IN WORKING GROUP MEETINGS. DE LA PIEDRA RESPONDED THAT PERU OFTEN APPEARED THE MOST DIFFICULT BECAUSE PERU ALONG AMONG THE PRODUCER COUNTRIES HAS A DIVERSIFIED COMMODITY EXPORT INTEREST AND THEREFORE A BROADER INTEREST IN THE ENTIRE UNCTAD INTEGRATED PROGRAM. HOWEVER, HE WENT ON TO STATE THAT
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IN RECENT MONTHS PERU HAD MADE SIGNIFICANT CONCESSIONS FROM ITS INITIAL POSITION OPPOSED TO ANY PRODUCER-CONSUMER BODY OUTSIDE OF UNCTAD. HE EXPRESSED HOPE THAT PROGRESS WOULD BE MADE AT THE FORTHCOMING MEETING, NOTING THAT PERU WOULD WORK CONSTRUCTIVELY TOWARD THAT
END.

3. AS FOR THE SPECIFICS, DE LA PIEDRA SAID THAT PERU NOW ACCEPTS THE U.S. PROPOSALS FOR A SECRETARIAT AND A BUDGET FOR THE GROUP INDEPENDENT OF THE UNCTAD. HE NOTED THE FIGURES OF FIVE TECHNICAL PLUS FIVE ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF AS PROBABLY ADEQUATE FOR THE SECRETARIAT. AS FOR THE BUDGET, PERU WAS PREPARED TO MAKE A CONTRIBUTION ON AN EQUAL SHARE BASIS FOR ALL MEMBER COUNTRIES.

4. THE MAIN POINT OF DISAGREEMENT, ACCORDING TO DE LA PIEDRA IS THE LINK WITH UNCTAD. WHILE WE PROPOSE OBSERVER STATUS FOR UNCTAD, PERU INSISTS ON AN ADVISORY STATUS WITH THE RIGHT TO SPEAK WHEN REQUESTED. WHEN THE DCM NOTED THAT OBSERVER STATUS MIGHT NOT PRECLUDE THE RIGHT TO SPEAK, DE LA PIEDRA NOTED THAT THIS WAS PARTLY A MATTER OF NOMENCLATURE, BUT AHT PERU WOULD NOT ACCEPT THE TERM OBSERVER. A FURTHER ASPECT OF THE UNCTAD LINK WAS THE ROLE OF THE AD HOC COMMITTEE FOR COMMODITIES. PERU FEELS THAT THIS COMMITTEE SHOULD NOT ONLY RECEIVE PERIODIC REPORTS FROM THE PRODUCER-CONSUMER GROUP, BUT BE ABLE TO COMMENT ON AND TRANSMIT BACK TO THE COPPER GROUP HOW THE WORK OF THE COPPER GROUP RELATES TO THE OVERALL INTEGRATED PROGRAM. THE DCM COMMENTED THAT THIS COULD WELL LEAD TO A SEPARATE FORUM FOR DISCUSSION OF COPPER, WITH SOME COUNTRIES PERHAPS EVEN CONSIDERING THE AD HOC COMMITTEE AS THE PRIMARY FORUM. DE LA PIEDRA REPLIED THAT THIS WAS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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DEFINITELY NOT REPEAT NOT THE PERUVIAN INTENT, BUT ADDED SOMEWHAT OMINOUSLY THAT SOME POLITICAL ASPECTS OF THE COPPER DISCUSSIONS, AS RELATED TO THE NEW INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC ORDER, SHOULD MORE APPROPRIATELY BE DISCUSSED IN UNCTAD.

5. AT THE CLOSE OF THE MEETING DE LA PIEDRA REPEATED THAT THE FOREIGN MINISTRY HAD INSTRUCTED ITS GENEVA DELEGATION TO TAKE A FLEXIBLE APPROACH IN AN EFFORT TO PERMIT THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE PRODUCER-CONSUMER GROUP AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. HE STATED THAT THESE INSTRUCTIONS WOULD BE SENT AGAIN, AND RE-EMPHASIZED THAT IF THE UNCTAD LINKAGE QUESTION COULD BE WORKED OUT THERE COULD BE QUICK PROGRESS TOWARD AGREEMENT.
SHLAUDEMAM

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